

The National Weather Service School Newsletter

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday NOV. 3rd
- Winter Weather Awareness Week NOV 3rd-9th
- First day of Winter DEC. 21st
- First day of Spring MAR 20th
- First day of Summer JUN 21st

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WEATHER SAFETY AT SCHOOL

WELCOME to another school year...and another issue of the National Weather Service Detroit/Pontiac's annual newsletter. In the spirit of National Preparedness Month, we would like to encourage all school administrators to ensure they have safety plans in place to protect staff and students from hazardous weather and other emergencies.

This issue of our annual newsletter is focused on providing information on steps you can take to be safe inside and outdoors.

We also want to familiarize you with the many ways to stay informed on changing weather conditions....from NOAA Weather Radio to Facebook and Cell Phones!



Hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative. On behalf of the everyone at the National Weather, have a safe and happy school year!

WHEN THUNDER ROARS— STAY INDOORS!

Many people think that Thunderstorms are largely harmless unless they are close enough to get them wet. This idea is extremely false and the price for this bad thinking can be deadly.

Lightning results in roughly 73 fatalities and 500 injuries each year. It is the 4th most deadly weather

phenomenon in the United States out ranking tornadoes and hurricanes combined.

A phenomenon called a **BOLT from the BLUE**, can send a lightning strike over 25 miles away.

Remember, if you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck.



Photo taken in 1975 right before a lightning strike.

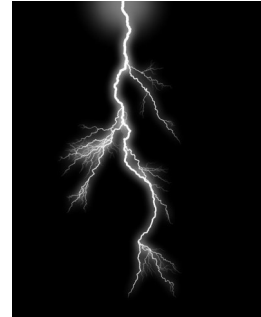
LIGHTNING—THE INSIDE STORY!

Staying indoors is the first step in lightning safety, but there still are dangers lurking inside a building or home.

Things to remember inside are:

- Don't use the telephone or computer.
- Don't take a shower or wash your hands or do dishes.
- Don't have any contact with conductive surfaces with exposure to the outside such as metal doors or window frames, electrical wiring, telephone wiring, cable TV wiring, plumbing, etc.

Lightning can travel down phone and water lines. A strike that hits the ground outside could travel along these various types of conduits to the inside of your home.



WHAT IS THUNDER?

**THE SPEED OF SOUND IS
767 MPH.**

**THE SPEED OF LIGHT IS
669,600,000 MPH!**



Did you know that you can have Lightning without Thunder, BUT NOT Thunder without Lightning?

The reason is that lightning is the creator of thunder. Lightning is basically a stream of electricity. The air surrounding the stream is very hot and causes the air to expand rapidly. The rapid expansion creates the explosive sound we call thunder. When a storm is close enough to see the lightning, we usually see the flash first and then hear the thunder. These events are backwards of what is really happening. It occurs this way, because light travels faster than sound.

TOP 4 WEATHER KILLERS

Tornadoes and Hurricanes are what most people think top this list— but surprisingly, they don't make the top 4!

1. Excessive Cold
2. Excessive Heat
3. Floods
4. Lightning

Extreme Cold kills over 600 people annually,
Extreme Heat kills over 350 annually.
Flooding kills around 100 people annually.
Lightning kills an average of 73 annually.

The best prevention is to stay informed on changing conditions and prepare accordingly. Never drive through a flooded area. Remember: Turn Around— Don't Drown! Stay indoors during Thunderstorms.



TORNADO SAFETY TIPS FOR SCHOOLS

Each school should have a tornado safety plan established and conduct drills frequently. Practicing ensures everyone knows what to do in the event of a tornado and can reduce panic. Be prepared to take action as soon as the warning is issued. The goal is to get everyone to safety in 60 seconds. Acceptable shelter areas should be identified well in advance and should not include portable classrooms or large open areas, such as gyms and lunchrooms with exterior walls. Shelter areas should also be free of windows. Safety procedures should include all after school events as well.

And finally– know the difference between a Tornado WATCH and a Tornado WARNING.

A WATCH means WATCH the Storm A WARNING means Take Action NOW!



Proper tucking position to protect yourself from a tornado

For more information on how to keep your school safe– visit this web site by the Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness: http://www.mcswa.com/SCHOOL_PLN4.pdf

TORNADO SAFETY TIPS FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

Bus Drivers should identify protective areas along each route where shelter can be taken from a Tornado or High Wind.

A ditch or below ground area is an acceptable choice in an emergency.

DO NOT STAY ON THE BUS.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO OUT-RUN SEVERE WEATHER.

The average tornado moves about 30 mph, but can move upwards or 70 mph.



“ Don’t stay on the bus or try to outrun a tornado.”

100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE WHITE HURRICANE

November 2013 marks the 100 year Anniversary of one of the worst storms to ever punish the Great Lakes. 12 ships were lost in the storm and over 30 others were crippled by it. More than 250 deaths were recorded.

Two storms collided over Lake Huron producing paralyzing blizzard conditions, hurricane



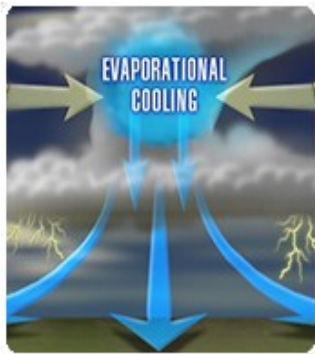
force winds and waves that exceeded 30 feet..

For more information visit the web site at:

http://www.regions.noaa.gov/great-lakes/centennial_anniversary_storm_of_1913/

SCIJINKS: A COOL NEW SCIENCE WEB SITE FOR KIDS!

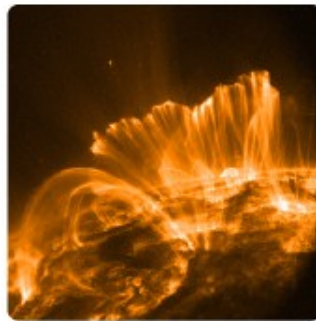
The Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California joined forces with NOAA and the NASA to create a very cool and exciting web site for kids, SciJinks: <http://scijinks.gov> Learn about weather and space weather, view great images in the photo galleries, play cool games, solve sliding puzzles, and watch a video of a lightning storm from space or a rocket ship lifting off! It's so interesting and fun, even adults will want to visit!



LEARN HOW THE
ATMOSPHERE WORKS



LEARN ABOUT LIGHTNING!



LEARN ABOUT
SPACE WEATHER



SOLVE A SLIDING PUZZLE!



VIEW GREAT IMAGES!

<http://scijinks.gov>

WHERE TO FIND THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

ON LINE: www.crh.noaa.gov/dtx

ON FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/US.NationalWeatherService.Detroit.gov>

ON TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/NWSDetroit>

ON YOUTUBE: <http://www.youtube.com/user/NWSDetroit?feature=watch>

ON NOAA WEATHER RADIO



If you're interested in visiting the National Weather Service Office Detroit/Pontiac or having the National Weather Service speak at your school – please contact Rich Pollman at: 248-625-3309 EXT 726 or email Rich at richard.pollman@noaa.gov



KooKoo For CoCoRaHS!

CoCoRaHS is an acronym for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. CoCoRaHS is a unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow). By using low-cost measurement tools, stressing training and education, and utilizing an interactive Web-site, their aim is to provide the highest quality data for natural resource, education and research applications. CoCoRaHS is now in all fifty states.

CoCoRaHS is used by a wide variety of organizations and individuals. The National Weather Service, other meteorologists, hydrologists, emergency managers, city utilities (water supply, water conservation, storm water), insurance adjusters, USDA, engineers, mosquito control, ranchers and farmers, outdoor & recreation interests, teachers, students, and neighbors in the community are just some examples of those who visit the website and use the data.

The Michigan State Climate Office and the National Weather Service encourage schools to participate in the Michigan CoCoRaHS Network. Your students will enjoy taking measurements of rain and snow at their own school and seeing reports appear on both national and state maps! The CoCoRaHS website also contains lesson plans and activities on a variety of weather topics.

To join, complete the online training and order your rain gauge...or just visit the site and view the data.

www.cocorahs.org